



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

MAY 2016

The BUZZ WORD



A VISIT FROM BISHOP COYNE

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List

Please contact:

The Buzz Word Editor
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 447-6510

Email: Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture
Haircuts
Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies
Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods
Headphones
iTunes cards

QAPI CORNER

Performance Improvement Projects



By: Karen Divis
Quality Assurance Nurse

What are some of the issues we are monitoring in Quality Assurance? We are always monitoring our Quality Measures and what is best practice in all departments. We also listen to our veterans/members, staff & families to know what is important to them. Here are some of the concerns we are monitoring right now:

Policies & Procedures, our Admission process, Snacks for the kitchenettes, the Main Dining Room procedure, are staff getting their breaks, care plans, antipsychotic medications, the COLST form and many more.

If you are interested in joining a Performance Improvement Project we encourage the families and friends of our veterans/members, staff & veterans/members to participate in our PIP.

Please contact Karen Divis RN at 447-2888 or stop by and see me.

Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Please note that there is no comma after the words "one nation." The phrase is "One Nation Under God."

Some of us American Legionnaires at Bennington Post 13 have developed a Flag Etiquette Program that we take to the elementary schools in Bennington County. Our goal is to teach our young ones how to honor the flag, how to display our flag and give them some history about our flag. We quiz the students to see how much they know about Old Glory. It is surprising how much they do not know. Some schools assign a Teacher to be the flag advocate, most do not. Some schools have the students raise the flag each morning, some do not. One thing we often observe is that when reciting the Pledge of the Allegiance, many pause after the words, "one nation", then they say under God. We make it a point to correct them on this mistake.

Another misunderstanding on part of some, including adults, is that they think they are worshiping the flag when saying the Pledge of the Allegiance. Wrong!! We worship God. We honor the flag and recognize it as the representation of our country and those who served and are serving in the military. It especially reminds us of those who made the supreme sacrifice to insure the freedoms we take for granted.

Maybe we should encourage our own Flag Etiquette Program here at the Veterans' Home. We can do it at least in the Chapel to lead off our worship services by honoring our Flag. Your thoughts?

The American Legion motto is "For God and Country." We start all meetings and conferences by invoking the blessings of the one ever loving and true God.

Please pray for our troops and for all the servants of our Veteran residents and their spouses.

God Bless,
Ken Coonradt, Chaplain





VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions Please Contact:

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant
mary.ryan@vermont.gov
802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager
447-2732
Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Christina Cullinane, Director of Nursing
447-6543
christina.cullinane@vermont.gov

Cindy Rankin, Food Service Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director
447-6520
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director
447-6528
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor
447-2731
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse
447-2888
karen.divis@vermont.gov

Mary Hamilton, MDS
379-5279
mary.hamilton@vermont.gov

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and
Marketing Director
447-6539
gary.yelle@vermont.gov

From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson

Spring has finally sprung at VVH. The Maintenance Department is already busy mowing the lawns and cleaning out the flower beds. As a reminder parking is only allowed in designated parking lots/spots. Please do not park along the driveway or on the grass.

After almost 6 years of service to VVH Christina Cullinane will be leaving us on May 27, 2016 to pursue new opportunities. During her tenure at VVH, Christina helped to implement several important changes to VVH; these include, but are not limited to, the opening up of Brandon Boulevard to the rest of the facility, Risk Meetings, post incident huddles, conducting a complete review and updating the policies and procedures for the nursing department, and she most recently worked with the State of Vermont to streamline the various nursing job descriptions across State agencies. Christina has been a strong advocate for our Veterans, Members and Staff. I wish Christina all the best with her new endeavor.

VVH has begun recruitment for a new Director of Nursing Services and as this process progresses I will keep you updated. Once a final selection has been made we will hold a meet and greet for Veterans, Members, their family members and staff.

On Monday May 2, 2016 I had the honor of accompanying Greg McGowan, LPN and his daughter Cheyenne to the State of Vermont Public Service Recognition Celebration. At this celebration representatives from various State Agencies are acknowledged for their hard work. Nominated by his peers, Greg received his award from Governor Peter Shumlin and the Secretary of Administration Justin Johnson. Please join me in congratulating Greg on this well-deserved honor.

Take Care,
Melissa



The Elks' Steak Dinner



We would like to thank everyone who was involved with this activity.
It was a lot of work, but know that the Veterans and Members appreciated every minute of it.



Donations

On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations.

Terry Young
Carol Mae Wintermute
Jane Klonsky
Monica Gibson
DAV Auxillary
BPOE 567

In Memory of Dr. Richard Fabricius

Louise Welsch
Helen Greaney
Rudolph and Concetta Pitcher
Philip Martinez, M.D.
Martha Anne Bromirski
John and Marie Lapenta
Matthew and Kandi Koch
Robert Cummings, Jr.
Yngveig Lewis
Kathleen and Charles Wood
Ann Fair

Larry A Steward and Jane Fabricius Steward
Deborah and John Williams
Jo and Craig Berry
Carol Griffin
Castleton Elementary School Early Education Team
Edward Smith

John and Carolyn Reed
John Lyons, Jr. and Family
Marie Hadwen
James and Grace Collins
David and Kristin Johnson
Emerson Investment Management, LLC
The Medical Staff at Southwestern VT Health Care
UU'57
Shelly and Stuart Duboff, MD

In Memory of Ray Gallant

Sandra Hamilton
Lucille Mattison
Beverly Dell'Anno

In Memory of John Balch

Winthrop Roberts
Phyllis Roberts
Rhonda Roberts

In Memory of Leonard Forrest

Nancy & Sanford Cameron

In Memory of Shirley Decker

Marvia Court #27 Ladies Oriental Shrine of NA



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Located in the Chapel at the Vermont Veterans' Home

For adults living with loss due to a death. Find comfort, coping skills and support Confidentiality is always respected. No fee to attend this group.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 1:00-2:00

A. Luke Crispe Room

If you have questions, please contact: Bill MacMillan at 802-447-6524

ALS SUPPORT GROUP

***Has been postponed until Spring**

Namaste Room on American Way

Please contact Christina Cosgrove, 802-447-2792, for more information.



From Deputy Administrator... Colonel Al Faxon



With spring growth and renewal coming alive around us, it presents a good opportunity to remember who we are, and why we have decided to work at our Home for America's Heroes; The Vermont Veterans' Home. We are among the finest Veterans' Homes in the nation because we live and work according to our Core Values. These values are the traits and qualities that represent our top priorities, our beliefs, and core fundamental driving forces to care for our Veterans' and Members. These are the values we desire to resonate with those we serve at VVH and for those looking in from the outside.

Commitment - We must be fully dedicated to becoming the very best at our jobs in order to carry out the mission of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Stewardship - We will ensure responsible stewardship of our Veterans and Members, financial resources, natural resources, as well as the data and information entrusted to us.

Team Work - We all must work together in a positive and productive manner to accomplish the mission and goals of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Respect - We must respect and preserve the dignity of every Veteran and Member, their families, visitors, volunteers, and employees we come in contact with.

Integrity - First and foremost, we must always strive to do what is right and in the best interest of our Veterans and Members.

Professionalism - Must be on display at all times; our success depends on maintaining a highly-skilled and compassionate workforce.

Excellence - We must strive to attain the highest level of quality and satisfaction in delivering person-centered care to our Veterans and Members.

Service - We will treat all Veterans and their families with the utmost dignity and compassion; and consistently demonstrate care, concern, and understanding in every encounter.

S/F
AF

State of Vermont Public Service Recognition Celebration



As the Buzz word editor, I am so excited to be the one writing about Greg McGowan, LPN, husband and Dad. I had the privilege of meeting Greg for the first time in a LNA class here at the Veterans' Home. He kept our class and our instructor in stitches with his sense of humor, which oddly enough helped all of the class not feel so nervous. He made our days in that class memorable. I was so happy to hear that he had made the decision to go on with his education and become an LPN. I admire his perseverance.

Greg McGowan deserves this recognition. No matter what is asked of him, he accepts and smiles all the way through it. He is respected by his peers, Veterans and Members here at the Home.

Thank you for your service to our Veterans, Greg!!

Pictured L to R: Secretary of Administration, Justin Johnson; Greg McGowan, LPN; Cheyenne McGowan and Governor Peter Shumlin.



F.Y.I.

Mark Your Calendars

Mother's Day Tea
Sunday, May 8, 2016
at 1:30 PM

Fishing Derby
Sunday, June 26, 2016
at 10:00 AM

The Eagles Concert Band
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
at 6:30 PM

VFW PICNIC
Sunday, July 10, 2016
at 12:00 PM

**The Vermont Veterans' Home
And
State Line Car Club
Invite you to their**

Father's Day Car Show

*** June 18, 2016**
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Rain Date
June 19, 2016

***Please take note of the date. This year it is going to be held the Saturday before Father's Day—Unless it has to be postponed.**



Bishop Coyne and Father Holden Visit the Home



Ice Cream Social



Visitors From the White River Junction Navy Operational Support Center



L to R: Col. Al Faxon, COO; ENS Daniel Tifft, Supply Corps;
LT John Wilkes, Commanding Officer; Vivian Wilkes; LCDR
Holly Kittleman, Supply Corps; Melissa Jackson, CEO.



Nursing Home Week Activities May 8 – May 14



Monday

Staff Breakfast in Patriot Hall

Tuesday

Hat Day - support your favorite Baseball or NASCAR team

Wednesday

Staff Lunch

Sponsored by the Board of Trustees and **SUPER BINGO**

Thursday

Indoor Picnic

Friday

Ice Cream Sundae Buffet



Five Star Employees



In honor of having a two deficiency free annual VA surveys and a CMS quality rating of 5 stars, the Board of Trustees awarded 5 stars pins (pictured on the next page) to all of the staff.





Five Star Facility

